

### Amendments to the Claims

1.-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A method of negotiating maximal data compression of a modem relay channel, comprising:

determining a first maximal data compression on a first leg;

determining a second maximal data compression on a second leg;

comparing the first maximal data compression and the second maximal data compression;

selecting an end-to-end maximal data compression ~~from~~ based on the first and second maximal data compressions;

renegotiating ~~only an unselected one~~ one or more of the first and second maximal data compressions to conform to the end-to-end maximal data compression; ~~and~~

saving the end-to-end maximal data compression in memory;

using the end-to-end maximal data compression stored in memory to prevent renegotiation of by the first or second legs; and

transmitting data using the end-to-end maximal data compression.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising delaying negotiations on the second leg until a maximal data compression on the first leg has been determined.

23.-24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, determining a maximal data compression on a first leg further comprising determining a maximal data compression on a called leg, and determining a maximal data compression on a second leg further comprising determining a maximal data compression on a calling leg.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, the method further comprising delaying negotiations on the calling leg until notification is received from the called leg.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, determining a maximal data compression on a first leg further comprising negotiating a maximal data compression on a calling leg and determining a maximal data compression on a second leg further comprising determining a maximal data compression on a called leg.

28. (currently amended) A network device, comprising:

a connector to allow the device to connect to a network and receive a signal from a remote gateway of a maximal data compression on a remote leg;

a dual first-pass negotiation mechanism to negotiate a first and a second maximal data compression capability for each of a first and second ~~leg~~ leg;

an end-to-end compression capability determination mechanism to select an end-to-end maximal data compression capability ~~from~~ based upon the first and second maximal data compression capabilities; ~~and~~

a second pass end-to-end renegotiation mechanism to renegotiate ~~only an unselected one~~ one or more of the first or second maximal data compression ~~based upon~~ to conform to the end-to-end maximal data compression capability;

a memory to store the end-to-end maximal data compression capability, the second pass renegotiation mechanism to use the end-to-end maximal data compression capability stored in memory to prevent renegotiation by the first-pass negotiation mechanism.

29. (previously presented) The network device of claim 28, further comprising a store to store the end-to-end maximal compression determined by the end-to-end determination mechanism.

30. (currently amended) An article of computer-readable media containing a program that, when executed, causes a computer to:

- determine a first maximal data compression on a first leg;
- determine a second maximal data compression on a second leg;
- compare the first maximal data compression and the second maximal data compression;
- select an end-to-end maximal data compression ~~from~~ based on the first and second maximal data compressions;
- renegotiate ~~only an unselected one or more~~ of the first and second maximal data compressions;
- save the end-to-end maximal data compression in memory;
- use the end-to-end maximal data compression stored in memory to prevent renegotiation of  
by the first or second legs and  
and
- transmitting data using the maximal end-to-end data compression.

31. (previously presented) The article of claim 30, the program further causing the computer store the end-to-end maximal compression parameters in memory.

32. (previously presented) The article of claim 30, the program further causing the computer to use the end-to-end maximal compression parameters stored in memory to prevent renegotiation by either the called leg or the calling leg.

33. (currently amended) A network device, comprising:

- a means for allowing the device to connect to a network and receive a signal from a remote gateway of a maximal data compression on a remote leg;
- a means for delaying data compression negotiations until the signal is received;

a means for negotiating a first and a second maximal data compression capability for each of a first and second leg;

a means for selecting an end-to-end maximal data compression capability ~~from~~ based on the first and second maximal data compression capabilities;

a means for renegotiating ~~only an unselected one~~ or more of the first or second maximal data compression based upon the end-to-end maximal data compression capability;

a means for storing the end-to-end maximal data compression;

a means for using the end-to-end maximal data compression to prevent renegotiation of  
by the first or second legs and

a means for signaling the remote gateway that negotiations are complete.

34. (previously presented) The network device of claim 33, further comprising a means for storing an end-to-end maximal compression received from the remote leg.